



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD REPORT



SUBJECT:	Washesu Creek Streamflow Gaging Project - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption	EXHIBIT:	F-3, 6 Pages
AUTHOR:	Alexa Herring, Assistant Engineer	MEETING DATE:	July 29, 2025

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve of Resolution 2025-18 authorizing the General Manager to execute and file a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Washeshu Creek Streamflow Gaging Project (Project).

DISCUSSION: In April 2025, the District was awarded a grant from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) through their California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) to reinstate and upgrade existing and historical stream gages on Washeshu Creek at three sites: South Fork Washeshu Creek, North Fork Washeshu Creek, and Washeshu Creek at the County Bridge (Olympic Valley Road). Reinstatement and continued operation of these stream gages was identified as a high priority recommendation in the Olympic Valley Groundwater Management Plan 6-Year Review and Report (McGinley & Associates, January 2023). Collecting stream flow data is necessary for future assessments of basin water yield, stream function and health, and to conduct audits of the numerical flow model.

The District is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will act as the Lead Agency for the Project. The Lead Agency, as defined by CEQA, is the public agency that has the primary responsibility for carrying out or approving a project (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15367). To be a CEQA Lead Agency, the public agency must have discretionary authority over the proposed project. The Lead Agency also has the primary responsibility for determining what level of CEQA review is required for a project and for preparing and approving the appropriate document (e.g., negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, Environmental Impact Report, or Notice of Exemption).

Under the CEQA guidelines, a project qualifies for a Class 6 Information Collection Categorical Exemption if it “consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource...” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15306).

The Project qualifies for a Class 6, Information Collection (Section 15306) Categorical Exemption as the sole purpose of all three stream gages is to collect stream flow data and their installation will not result in major disturbances to an environmental resource. The stream gages will be

installed when the creek is dry and Best Management Practices will be employed throughout the project to ensure protection of the environment, both during and after installation.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: There are no fiscal impacts associated with filing the CEQA NOE.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 2025-18 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Olympic Valley Public Service District Authorizing the General Manager to Execute and File the Notice of Exemption for the Washeshu Creek Streamflow Gaging Project.
- Notice of Exemption

DATE PREPARED: July 23, 2025

RESOLUTION 2025-18

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE
AND FILE THE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR THE
WASHESHU CREEK STREAMFLOW GAGING PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Olympic Valley Public Service District (District) is a public agency organized pursuant to California Water Code §30000, et seq; and

WHEREAS, the District was awarded a grant from the California Department of Water Resources through their California Stream Gage Improvement Program for the installation of streamflow gages on Washeshu Creek; and

WHEREAS, installation and operation of the three streamflow gages will support the goals and objectives of Olympic Valley Groundwater Management Plan by providing flow data that is necessary for future assessments of basin water yield, stream function and health, and to conduct audits of the numerical flow model; and

WHEREAS, the District is acting as Lead Agency for the Washeshu Creek Streamflow Gaging Project (Project) under the California Public Resources Code §21000, et seq, (CEQA); and

WHEREAS, the District as Lead Agency has determined that the Project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt pursuant to § 15306 - Information Collection of Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Olympic Valley Public Service District hereby directs the General Manager to execute and file the attached Notice of Exemption on the grounds that said project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The contents of said Notice of Exemption shall be filed with Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and the Placer County Clerk's Office.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 29th day of July, 2025 at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Olympic Valley Public Service District, by the following vote on roll call:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Dale Cox, Board President

ATTEST:

Jessica Asher, Board Secretary

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Placer

2954 Richardson Drive

Auburn, CA 95603

From: (Public Agency): _____
Olympic Valley Public Service District
PO Box 2026 Olympic Valley, CA 96146

(Address)

Project Title: Washesu Creek Streamflow Gaging Project

Project Applicant: Olympic Valley Public Service District

Project Location - Specific:

See Attachment A.

Project Location - City: Olympic Valley Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See Attachment A.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Olympic Valley Public Service District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Olympic Valley Public Service District

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306 Information Collection
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

See Attachment A.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: David Hunt, District Engineer Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-583-4692

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

ATTACHMENT A

Olympic Valley Public Service District Washesu Creek Streamflow Gaging Project CEQA Categorical Exemption

Project Description

In April 2025, the Olympic Valley Public Service District (OVPSD) was awarded a Division of Water Resources (DWR) grant as part of their Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) to reinstate and upgrade existing and historical stream gages on Washeshu Creek in Olympic Valley. The three sites and the proposed work are as follows:

OVPSD Gage Name	Latitude	Longitude	Proposed Work
South Fork Washeshu Creek	39°11'49.0"N	120°14'20.7"W	New Gage Installation at county bridge crossing along Shriley Canyon Road.
North Fork Washeshu Creek	39°11'55.6"N	120°14'26.9"W	This is an existing active USGS gage site, so no installation work will be completed here in the stream at this site. Develop Rating Curve and Publish Discharge for USGS 10337810 NF WASHESHU CRK AT OLYMPIC VALLEY CA (currently stage only)
Washesu Creek at County Bridge	39°12'24.5"N	120°12'38.2"W	New Gage Installation upstream ~150-ft from historical gage location operated by Friends of Squaw Creek. Historical location is also USGS 10337850 WASHESHU CRK AT OLYMPIC VLY RD A PALISADES TAHOE CA (historical WQ location)

Reinstatement and continued operation of these stream gages was identified as a high priority recommendation in the Olympic Valley Groundwater Management Plan 6-Year Review and Report. Collecting stream flow data is necessary for future assessments of basin water yield, stream function and health, and to conduct audits of the numerical flow model.

Stream gage equipment and work that is proposed to be completed at the South Fork Washeshu Creek and Washeshu Creek at County Bridge locations consists of:

- Installation of one stream gage plate on the bank of the creek channel for manual flow readings.
- Telemetry equipment and an antenna in a utility box affixed to the bridges. This equipment will allow for real-time data collection of stream flows.
- A shallow (approximately 1-ft deep) trench for burying a 1.5-inch conduit that will house cables that run from the stream gage plate location to the telemetry equipment.

The North Fork Washeshu Creek location is an active USGS stream gage site, so no excavation work within the creek bed is proposed at this site. The only work proposed at this site is the installation of telemetry equipment affixed to a nearby condominium building. The District is in communication with the USGS and working with them to develop a data sharing agreement.

All construction work is proposed to take place in the fall when Washeshu Creek is dry and has no water flowing through it. The creek dries out every year between August and October.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 Information Collection

Under the CEQA guidelines, a project qualifies for a Class 6 Categorical Exemption if it “consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource....” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15306).

The Washeshu Streamflow Gaging Project qualifies for a Class 6, Information Collection (Section 15306) Categorical Exemption as the sole purpose of all three stream gages is to collect stream flow data and their installation will not result in major disturbances to an environmental resource. Best Management Practices will be employed throughout the project to ensure protection of the environment, both during and after installation.